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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **\$145 Million Powerball Jackpot Reaches A Holiday High**

It would be the ultimate Christmas present. The Powerball jackpot is estimated at \$145 million or \$79.4 million in cash depending on how you want to wrap up the deal.

"The average jackpot is \$60 million. Whenever the jackpot goes higher than this, people start to get excited," said Chuck Keller, North Dakota Lottery director.

The current Powerball jackpot run began on Wednesday, October 20. "Almost 35,000 winning tickets have been sold in North Dakota since the run began," Keller said. "This amounts to over \$287,000 in prizes and more than \$1.5 million in sales for this time period," he added.

Powerball tickets are sold in 27 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The combined sales total for this jackpot run is more than \$242 million. The last Powerball jackpot run began on August 18, 2004 and ended with a \$215 million win on October 13, 2004.

Since January 1, the Powerball jackpot has been awarded 8 times. There has not been a Powerball jackpot winner in North Dakota.

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